(b) to (e) The issues of granting Unified Access Services (UAS) Licenses to various companies including M/s Swan Telecom Pvt. Ltd. in year 2008, as per UAS license Guidelines dated 14.12.2005 for an upfront entry fee at a price discovered in 2001 and allocation of spectrum to these companies, have been raised by 'Dr. Arvind Gupta in his Writ Petition (Civil) No. 7815 of 2008 before Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in the matter of Dr. Arvind Gupta *Vs* Union of India' and the matter is presently *sub-judice*.

As far as the roaming pacts of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) with M/s. Swan Telecom is concerned, BSNL has stated that all the decisions in this regard have been taken by the BSNL Board/Management after due diligence and considering BSNL's business interest at every step.

Vacant posts in BSNL, Gujarat

1029. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are 96 per cent vacancies against the sanctioned strength as far as the post of DGM (Finance) is concerned in the Office of BSNL, Gujarat;

(b) if so, how the Department can function with such situation where there are only one DGM against the requirement of 25;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are 45 per cent vacancies in Group B officers in the Office of the BSNL, Gujarat; and

(d) the reasons for important posts of Group A and B not filled either by promotion or direct recruitment in the engineering cadre and accounts category of the Department in BSNL, Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. There is 96% vacancies against the sanctioned strength of DGM (Finance) in Gujarat Circle.

(b) CAO (*Ad-hoc*) officers working in Gujarat Circle, who were given DGM scale as per time bound up-gradation of IDA pay scale policy introduced in BSNL, have been ordered to look after the duties of DGM (Finance) in circle. Seventeen DGM (Finance) posts are filled up on look after basis.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) **Action taken to fill up Group 'A' Posts**:

BSNL is presently following Recruitment Rules/Promotion Policy of Department of Telecommunications for promotion of eligible Executives to Group 'A' level.

BSNL has also expedited finalization of its Recruitment Rules for Group 'A' officers/Executives in order to appoint Executives from open market to man its vacant posts, including those of Accounts and Finance services.

Action taken to fill up Group 'B' Posts:

The vacant posts of AO have been filled in BSNL by conducting DPC on regular basis. After formation of BSNL, in the last three years, promotion to the grade of AO was ordered in respect of 1716 posts and have been filled up including Gujarat Circle.

SDE (Telecom) is an all India cadre and the posts are filled as per Recruitment rules. The posts are to be filled from the feeder grade of JTOs which is a circle Cadre. There are 27 Recruiting circles. All India eligibility list of JTOs is prepared by interpolating all JTOs at appropriate places, for filling the posts of SDEs by promotion. The posts are also filled through limited departmental competitive examination.

Promotions to the grade of SDEs in accordance with Recruitment Rules, on the basis of seniority-cum-fitness are being made at regular intervals centrally.

Improvement in rural telecom connectivity

1030. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chairman, National Knowledge Commission has emphasized the need to improve rural telecom connectivity to ensure overall development of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's action plan for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The issue of rural telecom connectivity has not been covered in any of the recommendations submitted by the National Knowledge Commission to the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Development of IT in Indian languages

†1031. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is carrying out any work for the development of information technology in Indian languages;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and language-wise;

(c) whether any special task force has been set up for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details of its duties alongwith the financial provisions made for it;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.